



Metropolitan Sewerage District

OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

RECEIVED

JUN - 6 2013

DWQ/Surface Water Protection Section
Asheville Regional Office

June 6, 2013

Mr. Chuck Cranford, Regional Supervisor
Surface Water Protection Section
Division of Water Quality
Asheville Regional Office
2090 U.S. Highway 70
Swannanoa, NC 28778

Subject: Notice of Violation
NOV-2013-DV-0120
Permit No. WQCS00004
Buncombe County

Dear Mr. Cranford:

This letter is in response to the subject NOV issued in your letter of May 28, 2013. Below is a synopsis of the cause of the SSO, the response, and further action that was taken.

MSD contracted with Gilbert Engineering Company to replace one of the three pumps at the influent pump station at the Treatment Plant. This pump is approximately 25 years old and is reaching the end of its useful life. Unfortunately the fail-safe procedures agreed to in the preconstruction conference were not followed, in addition to the fact that MSD Operations Staff were not notified of the work being started.

On April 30th, the Contractor (construction field staff) proceeded to replace the pump valve packing without following the fail-safe procedure established beforehand by MSD. The procedure involved shutting down the pumps and draining the system in order to work on the valve. An investigation was conducted (report attached) to determine why the procedure was not followed, and why MSD Operations staff were not notified.

Once the incident occurred, MSD Plant Operations and Collection System Operations Staff were notified and a "code-red" was issued. MSD O&M personnel immediately responded to clear and pump out the area, and then to quickly repair the damage that had been done.

~Protecting Our Natural Resources~

This was a valiant effort in tough conditions. The MSD Operations Staff showed great resolve and focus to get the situation under control, repair the valve, and minimize the down time.

The Spill lasted from 8:35 am until 2:45 pm. The spill rate was 0.95 million gallons per hour (based upon system flow monitors) and the river flow rate was 192.5 million gallons per hour. The total spill volume was 5.86 million gallons.

Once the repair was made and the overflow ceased, System Services personnel rallied to clean up all spill areas (basically adjacent to manholes between the administration building and Woodfin Park) by removing contaminated surface soils and then applying lime to disinfect and then putting down straw and mulch. This was completed for all areas by 8pm that same day (Tuesday).

MSD immediately began water quality testing at several spots along the river in concert with NCDENR Staff, who performed tests as well. This testing lasted from when the leak started through Friday afternoon. Spill updates and sampling information were shared with the environmental and health officials, the MSD Board, the press, and several stakeholder groups along the French Broad River. Testing results indicated that the river quality from the Plant to Hot Springs had returned to normal by Thursday morning.

After the spill itself was addressed, MSD followed-up to guard against any further occurrence on several fronts. First MSD conducted an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the accident. As a result MSD has taken a personnel action against the employee that was involved with the contractor. MSD put the Contractor on notice of their responsibility as well. Critical staff met to go over lessons learned from the entire incident as well as sharing the investigation report with all staff, since human error was involved.

There are 3 high service pumps (35 MGD each), one lead, one lag and one as back-up standby. In addition, MSD has a 2MW standby generator (currently being upgraded to 4 MW) and 2 different feeds from the Progress energy sub station. The current station utilizes a dry pit design for the pump and motor units with a 210 GPM sump pump for leaks within the dry pit area. In addition MSD has both a hydraulic driven and diesel driven emergency portable pumps which were used to dewater the area.

The cause of the accident was not following the shut -off procedures prior to working on the valve. However, in an effort to provide backup to the backup, and in an effort to expand the safety margin in time before a potential spill might occur, MSD has engineered and purchased a much larger sump pump of 700 GPM that will remain in the dry pit permanently. This measure will more than triple the dewatering capacity of the existing sump pump. In addition, MSD has purchased 2

Page Three

additional portable 12 -inch diesel-driven emergency pumps and has them staged at the front of the plant which can also be used for a full pump around of the Carrier Bridge pump station.

Please find the attached information:

1. Four news releases (two on April 30th, one May 1st and a publication May 6th)
2. Wednesday May 1st Spill Recap/Update – which was emailed directly to Health and Environmental Officials, the MSD Board, French Broad Users, and the press.
3. MSD Spill River Sampling, French Broad River, Results as of Thursday May 2nd
4. River Sample Data Spread sheet April 30th through May 3, 2013.
5. MSD Sewage Spill – 4/40/13 Investigation and Background.
6. Photos

This was a very unfortunate accident. MSD takes seriously its role and record of environmental stewardship.

Please call with any questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Harty, P.E.
General Manager

TEH:sh
Attachments

ASHEVILLE
CITIZEN-TIMES
VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS • CITIZEN-TIMES.com

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE

The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County notifies the public of an untreated sewage discharge at 2028 Riverside Drive in Asheville. An estimated 5,860,000 gallons of untreated sewage began at 8:35 a.m., April 30, 2013. The duration of the discharge was 6 hours. The cause of the discharge into the French Broad River was due to a valve blow out at the MSD main pump station that feeds the plant in Woodfin while a contractor was performing maintenance on it. The cause of the discharge has been corrected and the affected area has been checked for any residual effects. This notice was required by North Carolina General Statutes Article 21 Chapter 143.215.C.

If you would like more information, please call Ken Stines at MSD – 255-0061

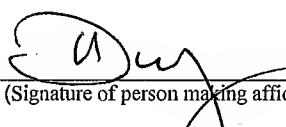
May 5, 2013 (1156)

AN-0000332640

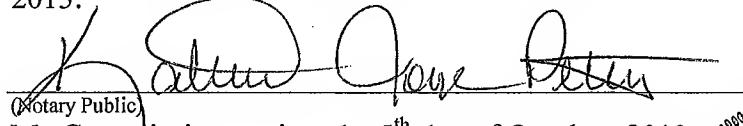
SS.
NORTH CAROLINA

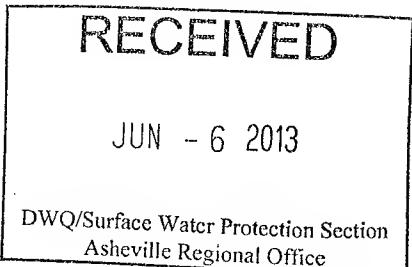
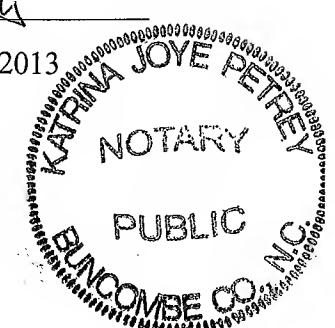
Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of said County and State, duly commissioned, qualified and authorized by law to administer oaths, personally appeared **Velene Fagan**, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: that she is the **Legal Billing Clerk of The Asheville Citizen-Times**, engaged in publication of a newspaper known as **The Asheville Citizen-Times**, published, issued, and entered as first class mail in the City of Asheville, in said County and State; that she is authorized to make this affidavit and sworn statement; that the notice or other legal advertisement, a true copy of which is attached hereto, was published in **The Asheville Citizen-Times** on the following date: May 5th, 2013. And that the said newspaper in which said notice, paper, document or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

Signed this 6th day of May, 2013


(Signature of person making affidavit)

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 6th day of May, 2013.


(Notary Public)
My Commission expires the 5th day of October, 2013





April 30, 2013 Spill Recap/Update
(Wednesday May 1st)

- The spill lasted from 8:35 am till 2:45 pm. The spill flow rate was 0.95 million gallons per hour.
- The river was flowing at 192.5 million gallons per hour.
- The System Services Folks rallied to have all spill areas cleaned up by 8 pm last night. Basically removing surface soils, adding lime for disinfection and adding back straw and mulch for restoration.
- River/Spill Plume velocity: 2.9 miles per hour
- Marshall (16.7 river miles) 5.8 hours – passed by at approximately 9 pm last night (Tues. 4/30).
- Hot Springs (32 miles) 11 hours – passed by at approximately 2 am this morning (Wed. 5/1).
- We are testing several spots along the river in concert with NCDENR. Unfortunately these coliform bacteria tests take 24 hours to perform. We will use these tests to give the all clear.
- I just recently gave interviews relating this information and answered questions for the TV press WLOS and News 4.

Please forward this on to whomever you see fit and call me with any questions or input.

MSD Spill River Sampling
French Broad River
Results as of Thursday May 2nd

Typical untreated sewage Fecal coliform count is between 100,000 to 1,000,000 (cfu/100ml).

Results:

Tuesday April 30th, while the spill was passing by, at 4:35 pm the count was 6700 at Ledges Park.

Wednesday May 1st at 10:13 am the count was down to 430 at Ledges Park which is near normal range.

Wednesday May 1st at 11:32 am the count was down to 460 at Walnut Island Park which is near normal range.

Wednesday May 1st at 12:10 pm the count was down to 320 at Hot Springs Bridge which is near normal range.

Thursday May 2nd at Marshall Bridge the count was at 148 in normal range.

Thursday May 2nd at Hot Springs the count was at 87 in normal range.

***** Upstream sample at Craggy Bridge which was unaffected by spill , the counts ranged from 310 to 520 on Wednesday May 1st.

River Sample Data

* Note: Typical Residential untreated wastewater Total Coliform is 10,000,000 with Fecal averaging 100,000 to 1,000,000

FAXED
4-30-13
1:20pm LT

**NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF
UNTREATED SEWAGE**

The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County notifies the public of an untreated sewage discharge at the main treatment plant in Woodfin due to an equipment failure beginning at 8 a.m. this morning. The District is currently working to get the main pumps back online. Please refrain from using the French Broad River downstream at the plant for recreation at this time. Treatment should be restored in the next few hours.

If you would like more information, please call Ken Stines at MSD – 255-0061

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DWQ/Surface Water Protection Section
Asheville Regional Office

 *** ACTIVITY REPORT ***

ST. TIME	CONNECTION TEL/ID	SENDER NAME	NO.	MODE	PGS.	RESULT
*04/22 06:44			9965	AUTO RX	G3	2 OK 01'29
*04/22 06:46			9966	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/22 08:34	8282525370		9967	AUTO RX	ECM	1 OK 00'39
*04/22 10:46	8282525370		9968	AUTO RX	ECM	4 OK 02'29
*04/23 06:42			9969	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'43
*04/23 06:43			9970	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/23 13:04	8282525370		9971	AUTO RX	ECM	3 OK 02'03
*04/24 06:42			9972	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'47
*04/24 06:43			9973	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/24 09:26			9974	AUTO RX		0 NG 00'43
						0
*04/24 09:28	828 628 9030		9975	AUTO RX	ECM	1 OK 00'35
*04/24 09:33	8282525370		9976	AUTO RX	ECM	3 OK 01'44
*04/25 06:39			9977	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'34
*04/25 06:42			9978	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/25 10:08	888 261 0287		9979	AUTO RX	ECM	1 OK 00'22
*04/26 06:41			9980	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'42
*04/26 06:42			9981	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/26 11:32	STATE FARM		9982	AUTO RX	ECM	1 OK 00'31
	8282534944					
*04/29 06:38			9983	AUTO RX	G3	2 OK 01'34
*04/29 06:44			9984	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/30 06:38			9985	AUTO RX	G3	2 OK 01'17
*04/30 06:41			9986	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
04/30 12:25	MSD ADMIN		2427	TRANSMIT	ECM	1 OK 00'31
	2543299					
04/30 12:28	DWQ		2428	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'34
	2997043					
04/30 12:29	ASH CITIZEN		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
	2510585					
04/30 12:30	WLOS		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
	6514618					
04/30 12:31	WKSF WWNC		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
	2557850					
04/30 12:31	WYFF		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'22
	18642405329					
04/30 12:32	WHNS FOX		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
	18649871219					
04/30 12:33	WASV UPN		2428	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'34
	18645875430					
04/30 12:35	UNC CTR PUBLIC TV		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'20
	19195497201					
04/30 12:36	BLK MTN NEWS		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
	6698619					
04/30 12:38	WTZQ		2428	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'45
	6971416					
04/30 12:39	WCQS		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'19
	2536700					
04/30 12:42	WHKP		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'27
	6969329					
04/30 12:43	WISE		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
	2535619					
04/30 12:44	WKJV		2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'42
	2599427					

04/30 12:45			2428	B'CAST	0	NG	00'00
04/30 12:45	WESC	18642428813	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1	0 #022
04/30 12:48	WFGW WMIT	2980117	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK 00'15

*** MULTI TX/RX REPORT ***

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	[61]	
TRANSACTION OK	[09]2997043	DWQ
	[19]2510585	ASH CITIZEN
	[20]6514618	WLOS
	[21]2557850	WKSF WWNC
	[48]18642405329	WYFF
	[49]18649871219	WHNS FOX
	[50]18645875430	WASV UPN
	[52]19195497201	UNC CTR PUBL C TV
	[53]6698619	BLK MTN NEWS
	[55]6971416	WTZQ
	[56]2536700	WCQS
	[57]2980117	WFGW WMIT
	[58]6969329	WHKP
	[59]2535619	WISE
	[60]2599427	WKJV
	[62]18642428813	WESC

ERROR INFORMATION

**NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF
UNTREATED SEWAGE**

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FAXED
4-30-13
4:00 PM (ET)

**FOLLOW-UP
NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF
UNTREATED SEWAGE**

The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County notifies the public of an untreated sewage discharge at the main treatment plant in Woodfin due to an equipment failure beginning at 8 a.m. this morning. The District restored service to the station at 2:40 p.m. Please refrain from using the French Broad River downstream at the plant for recreation at this time.

If you would like more information, please call Ken Stines at MSD – 255-0061

RECEIVED

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DWQ/Surface Water Protection Section
Asheville Regional Office

 *** ACTIVITY REPORT ***

ST. TIME	CONNECTION TEL/ID	SENDER NAME	NO.	MODE	PGS.	RESULT
*04/30 06:38			9985	AUTO RX	G3	2 OK 01'17
*04/30 06:41			9986	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
*04/30 12:25	MSD ADMIN	2543299	2427	TRANSMIT	ECM	1 OK 00'31
*04/30 12:28	DWQ	2997043	2428	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'34
*04/30 12:29	ASH CITIZEN	2510585	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
*04/30 12:30	WLOS	6514618	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
*04/30 12:31	WKSF WWNC	2557850	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
*04/30 12:31	WYFF	18642405329	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'22
*04/30 12:32	WHNS FOX	18649871219	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
*04/30 12:33	WASV UPN	18645875430	2428	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'34
*04/30 12:35	UNC CTR PUBL C TV	19195497201	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'20
*04/30 12:36	BLK MTN NEWS	6698619	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
*04/30 12:38	WTZQ	6971416	2428	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'45
*04/30 12:39	WCQS	2536700	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'19
*04/30 12:42	WHKP	6969329	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'27
*04/30 12:43	WISE	2535619	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
*04/30 12:44	WKJV	2599427	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'42
*04/30 12:45			2428	B'CAST		0 NG 00'00
					0	#022
*04/30 12:45	WESC	18642428813	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'15
*04/30 12:48	WFGW WMIT	2980117	2428	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
04/30 13:13			9987	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'45
04/30 13:22	MTN EXPRESS	2511311	2428	B'CAST		0 NG 00'00
					0	#018
04/30 15:08	DWQ	2997043	2429	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'33
04/30 15:09	ASH CITIZEN	2510585	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
04/30 15:10	WLOS	6514618	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
04/30 15:11	WKSF WWNC	2557850	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
04/30 15:11	WYFF	18642405329	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
04/30 15:13	WHNS FOX	18649871219	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
04/30 15:14	WASV UPN	18645875430	2429	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'35

DATE	TIME	STATION	CALL SIGN	MSD	SYSTEM	SKYU	STATUS	TIME	LOG
04/30	15:15	UNC CTR PUBLIC TV	19195497201				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:16	BLK MTN NEWS	6698619				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:18	WTZQ	6971416				2429	B'CAST	G3
04/30	15:21	WFGW WMIT	2980117				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:23	WISE	2535619				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:24	WKJV	2599427				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:25						2429	B'CAST	
04/30	15:25	WESC	18642428813				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:28	WCQS	2536700				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	15:29	WHKP	6969329				2429	B'CAST	ECM
04/30	16:02	MTN EXPRESS	2511311				2429	B'CAST	

*** MULTI TX/RX REPORT ***

TX/RX NO	2429	
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TX/RX INCOMPLETE	[54]2511311	MTN EXPRESS
	[61]	
TRANSACTION OK	[09]2997043	DWQ
	[19]2510585	ASH CITIZEN
	[20]6514618	WLOS
	[21]2557850	WKSF WWNC
	[48]18642405329	WYFF
	[49]18649871219	WHNS FOX
	[50]18645875430	WASV UPN
	[52]19195497201	UNC CTR PUBLIC TV
	[53]6698619	BLK MTN NEWS
	[55]6971416	WTZQ
	[56]2536700	WCQS
	[57]2980117	WFGW WMIT
	[58]6969329	WHKP
	[59]2535619	WISE
	[60]2599427	WKJV
	[62]18642428813	WESC

ERROR INFORMATION

**FOLLOW-UP
NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF
UNTREATED SEWAGE**

The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County notifies the public of an untreated sewage discharge at the main treatment plant in Woodfin due to an equipment failure beginning at 8 a.m. this morning. The District restored service to the station at 2:40 p.m. Please refrain from using the French Broad River downstream at the plant for recreation at this time.

FAXED
5/1/13

11/20a.m.

Contact: Ken Stines
Metropolitan Sewerage District
Phone: (828) 255-0061
Fax: (828) 251-9040

Post Office Box 8969
2028 Riverside Drive
Asheville, North Carolina 28814

**Metropolitan
Sewerage
District**

News Release

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE

The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County notifies the public of an untreated sewage discharge within the collection system of our district. The cause of the discharge has been corrected and the affected area has been checked for any residual affects. This notice was required by North Carolina General Statutes Article 21 Chapter 143.215.C

Location of discharge: 2028 RIVERSIDE DR - ASHEVILLE

Estimated volume entering surface waters: 5860000 gallons

Time and date of discharge: 4/30/2013 8:35:00 AM

Duration of discharge: 6 hrs.

Surface water entered: FRENCH BROAD RIVER

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JUN - 6 2013

DWQ/Surface Water Protection Section
Asheville Regional Office

Cause of discharge: A VALVE BLEW OUT AT OUR MAIN PUMP STATION
THAT FEEDS THE PLANT HERE IN WOODFIN WHILE
A CONTRACTOR WAS PERFORMING MAINTAINANCE
ON IT.

Comments: THE RIVER WAS FLOWING AT 192.5 MILLION
GALLONS PER HOUR;

Notification required within 48 hours of Determination

*** ACTIVITY REPORT ***

ST. TIME	CONNECTION TEL/ID	SENDER NAME	NO.	MODE	PGS.	RESULT
*04/30 13:22	MTN EXPRESS		2428	B'CAST	0	NG 00'00
		2511311			0	#018
*04/30 15:08	DWQ	2997043	2429	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'33
*04/30 15:09	ASH CITIZEN	2510585	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
*04/30 15:10	WLOS	6514618	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
*04/30 15:11	WKSF WWNC	2557850	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
*04/30 15:11	WYFF	18642405329	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
*04/30 15:13	WHNS FOX	18649871219	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'26
*04/30 15:14	WASV UPN	18645875430	2429	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'35
*04/30 15:15	UNC CTR PUBLIC TV	19195497201	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'19
*04/30 15:16	BLK MTN NEWS	6698619	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'25
*04/30 15:18	WTZQ	6971416	2429	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'45
*04/30 15:21	WFGW WMIT	2980117	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'25
*04/30 15:23	WISE	2535619	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
*04/30 15:24	WKJV	2599427	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'41
*04/30 15:25			2429	B'CAST	0	NG 00'00
					0	#022
*04/30 15:25	WESC	18642428813	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'18
*04/30 15:28	WCQS	2536700	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'17
*04/30 15:29	WHKP	6969329	2429	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'24
*04/30 16:02	MTN EXPRESS	2511311	2429	B'CAST	0	NG 00'00
05/01 06:42					0	#018
05/01 06:43			9988	AUTO RX	G3	2 OK 01'25
05/01 09:23			9989	AUTO RX	G3	1 OK 00'29
			9990	AUTO RX	0	NG 00'43
					0	
05/01 10:26	ASH CITIZEN	2510585	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'22
05/01 10:27	WLOS	6514618	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'21
05/01 10:28	WKSF WWNC	2557850	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'21
05/01 10:29	WYFF	18642405329	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'27
05/01 10:30	WHNS FOX	18649871219	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1 OK 00'30
05/01 10:31	WASV UPN	18645875430	2430	B'CAST	G3	1 OK 00'40

05/01	10:33	UNC CTR PUBLIC TV		2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'23
		19195497201							
05/01	10:34	BLK MTN NEWS	6698619	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'31
05/01	10:39	WFGW WMIT	2980117	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	01'41
05/01	10:41	WHKP	6969329	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'31
05/01	10:42	WISE	2535619	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'23
05/01	10:43	WKJV	2599427	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'58
05/01	10:45			2430	B'CAST		0	NG	00'00
							0	#022	
05/01	10:45	WESC	18642428813	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'18
05/01	10:46	DWQ	2997043	2430	B'CAST	G3	1	OK	00'38
05/01	10:49	WTZQ	6971416	2430	B'CAST	G3	1	OK	00'52
05/01	10:50	WCQS	2536700	2430	B'CAST	ECM	1	OK	00'22
05/01	11:23	MTN EXPRESS	2511311	2430	B'CAST		0	NG	00'00
							0	#018	

 *** MULTI TX/RX REPORT ***

TX/RX NO	2430	
PGS.	1	
TX/RX INCOMPLETE	[54]2511311	MTN EXPRESS
	[61]	
TRANSACTION OK	[09]2997043	DWQ
	[19]2510585	ASH CITIZEN
	[20]6514618	WLOS
	[21]2557850	WKSF WWNC
	[48]18642405329	WYFF
	[49]18649871219	WHNS FOX
	[50]18645875430	WASV UPN
	[52]19195497201	UNC CTR PUBLIC TV
	[53]6698619	BLK MTN NEWS
	[55]6971416	WTZQ
	[56]2536700	WCQS
	[57]2980117	WFGW WMIT
	[58]6969329	WHKP
	[59]2535619	WISE
	[60]2599427	WKJV
ERROR INFORMATION	[62]18642428813	WESC

Contact: Ken Stines
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 Asheville, North Carolina 28814

Metropolitan
 Sewerage
 District

News Release

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE

The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County notifies the public of an untreated sewage discharge within the collection system of our district. The cause of the discharge has been corrected and the affected area has been checked for any residual affects. This notice was required by North Carolina General Statutes Article 21 Chapter 143.215.C

Location of discharge: 2028 RIVERSIDE DR - ASHEVILLE

Estimated volume entering surface waters: 5860000 gallons

Time and date of discharge: 4/30/2013 8:35:00 AM

MSD Sewage Spill - 4/30/13 / Investigation and Background

On April 30, 2013, Gilbert Engineering Company ("Gilbert"), an independent contractor hired by MSD, began work on a project to remove and reinstall pump number 3 at the influent pump station. The specific task being performed by Gilbert on April 30, 2013, was to remove and replace packing in the existing isolation knife gate. This was the first step in the removal and replacement of the pump.

MSD staff had removed and replaced this same type of packing, approximately 6 to 7 years earlier, on another identical pump, as a maintenance item. Bob Triplett, MSD employee, was involved in that project.

Because Gilbert was going to do the pump replacement, it was determined that they should do the removal and replacement of the packing around the knife gate valve. Gilbert submitted a proposal to MSD dated May 14, 2012 to replace one influent pump. Gilbert submitted a modified proposal dated April 1, 2013. Gilbert, and in particular, its supervisor, Chuck Miller (who was formerly employed by Hickory Construction), had done work for MSD in the past and had worked with Mike Schraven, the MSD construction inspector assigned to coordinate this job with Gilbert.

MSD staff discussed this project in March and in April 2013. Staff agreed that the plant should be shut down when the work was being done. Peter Weed, Dennis Lance, Jay Cormier, Mike Schraven (MSD) and Hunter Carson, MSD engineer, met with Chuck Miller, the construction superintendent on this job for Gilbert on March 19, 2013 at MSD. At the meeting, a procedure for repacking the knife gate valve was discussed. The procedure involved turning off all the influent pumps (which pump untreated wastewater up into the plant) beginning at 8 A.M. The time between 8 and 10 AM was chosen because MSD studied flow patterns, and determined the lowest flows occurred during that time period.

When the pumps were turned off, Gilbert would remove the existing packing and put new packing in place. While this work was being done, the plan was to use the French Broad Interceptor sewer line (main line leading to the plant) for storage in order to facilitate the work.

Collection System Staff were directed to do a "dry run," to see how long it would take wastewater to back up into the upstream manholes. The dry run was done on April 5, 2013 under the supervision of Hunter Carson, an MSD engineer and Ken Stines, Co-Director of System Services. Peter Weed, plant manager, reported in the Division Director's meeting on April 10, 2013, that Ken Stine's crew had determined that an SSO would occur at the first upstream manhole 48 minutes after shutdown. The procedure as to how the work was to be done and the window of time to do the work were communicated to Mike Schraven and to Chuck Miller of Gilbert.

On Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at approximately 7:15 A.M., Mike Schraven and a crew from Gilbert, consisting of a foreman, Don Sigman, and his two sons, Keith and Steve, went to the influent pump station to remove and replace the existing packing around the knife gate valve on influent pump # 3. The yoke of the valve had been removed the previous Wednesday, April 24, as had the stem and thimble. Mike Schraven did not tell any of the plant personnel or his supervisor, Ed Bradford about the work being done on the pump that day.

Chuck Miller, the supervisor for Gilbert, was aware the work was going on the morning of April 30, but he was not on site when the work began. He did not talk with anyone that morning. He was not worried about the work. He came to the site shortly after getting a call from Don Sigman that an accident had occurred. When he arrived he heard that a pump had been left running and asked why.

Mike Schraven said he thought it was okay to do the work without shutting down the other influent pumps (1 and 2) and thought that the knife plate was stable, because he believed there was no pressure on the backside of the knife gate valve. He thought this was the case because the water valve on the pump volute was open and no water was coming out of it. The decision to proceed with the work with pump running was made by Mike Schraven and Don Sigman. Shortly after the work began, the knife plate shot out of the knife valve housing, hit the wall and then fell on one of the Sigman sons, who had been knocked to the floor in the process. He hit his head on the wall as he fell. His brother, Keith, and Bob Triplett removed the gate plate from his chest, and then walked him upstairs. Mike Schraven stated that he heard a crash after the work began. He immediately shut off the pumps, noticed that a worker was being helped and called Dennis Lance at the plant. [This version of the facts was provided by Mike Schraven immediately after the accident and during an interview with the Director of CIP, the Plant Director and the General Manager].

During an interview with the Director of Personnel, the CIP Director and the General Manager on Friday, May 3, 2013, and in a memorandum e-mailed to the General Manager on May 5, 2013, Mr. Schraven stated that it was never the intention to do the work with any of the pumps running, that he was expecting the Gilbert foreman to tell him when they needed to turn the pumps off so he could call the plant and tell them to turn the pumps off, that he had his back turned to the workers looking at the plumbing for a seal water pump system that MSD staff were about to rework when he heard clanging steel, water rushing and screaming. He turned around to see water rushing from the slide gate throat and workers struggling to get out from under the scaffolding. He ran upstairs, killed the pumps, and called Dennis Lance at the treatment plant. Mr. Schraven did not notify plant staff that the work on the pumps was being done on April 30, 2013. He said that Gilbert said they were ready to do the work, so he, Mike, said okay. He thinks he might have mentioned it on Monday, April 29, 2013, during discussions concerning a separate project at the treatment plant. Neither Dennis Lance, nor Ed Bradford, nor Peter Weed recall Mike Schraven mentioning this to them or discussing it on Monday, the 29th.

John Gilbert, the owner of the Company, mentioned that he discussed the procedure for this work with his staff, including Don Sigman, at their usual Monday morning meeting to discuss work.

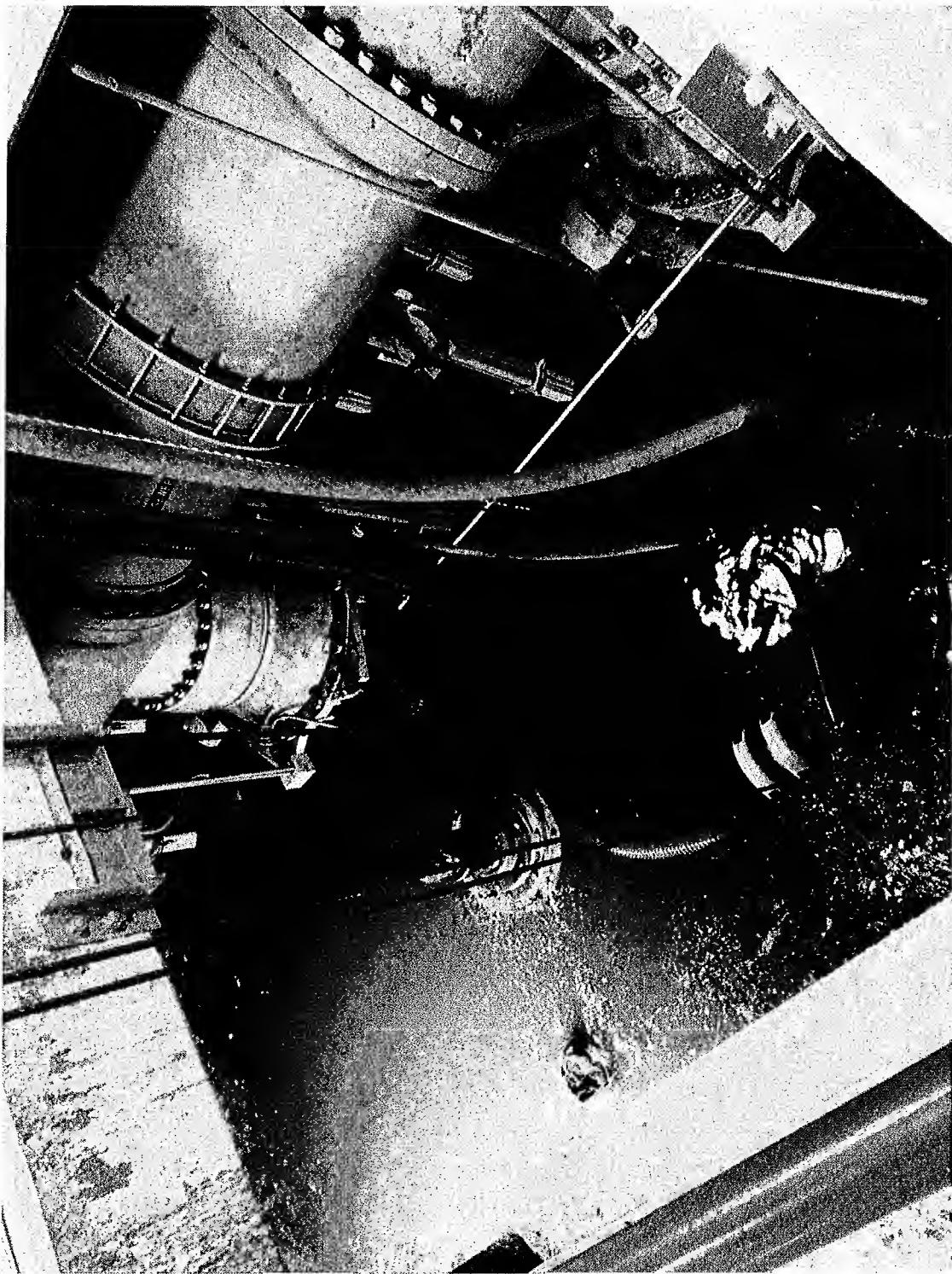
Bob Triplett said he told Donald Sigman the week before, how MSD had done the work with the pumps off the last time MSD replaced the packing around the knife gate valve. Mr. Triplett was working on another project on the lowest floor of the pump building, adjacent to where the work was being performed. At about 7:45 A.M., he noticed that the Gilbert crews were about to perform the repacking. He asked Don Sigman when they were going to turn the other Raw Pump off. Don's reply was that he reckoned they were not. Bob Triplett warned them that they better be prepared to get very wet if the silt above the knife gate did not hold. He then stood by just in case they would need his help for any reason. Minutes later, the knife gate started gushing water, the plate itself flew out hitting the one worker, the wall behind and then dropping down on top of the same worker. Bob then assisted in removing the heavy steel plate and supporting the Gilbert employee upstairs.

Once the incident occurred, MSD Plant Operations and Collection System operations were notified and a "code-red" was issued. MSD O&M personnel immediately responded to clear and pump out the area and to repair the damage that had been done.

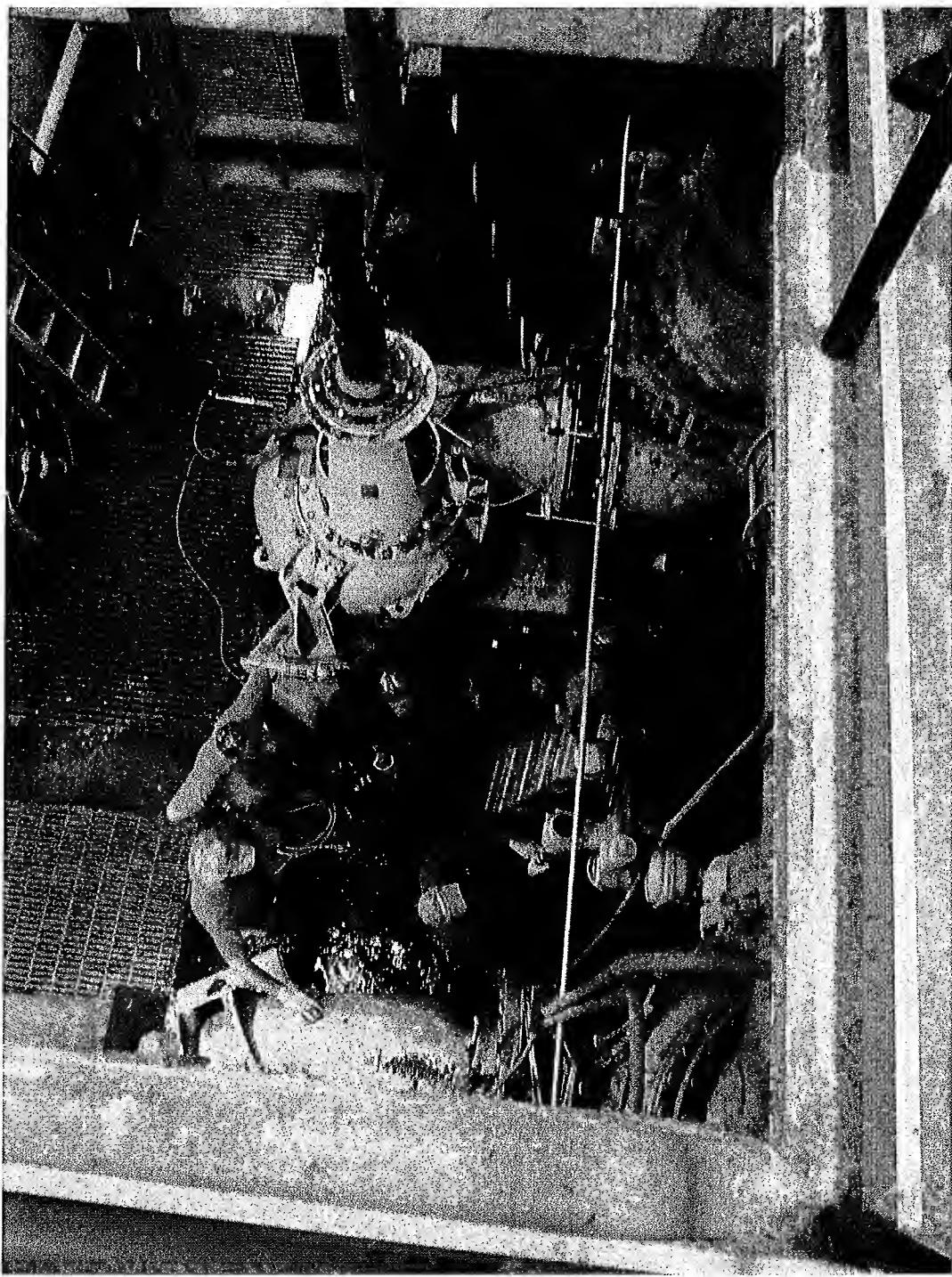
Blown Out Slide Gate and Sewage Flooding Dry Pit

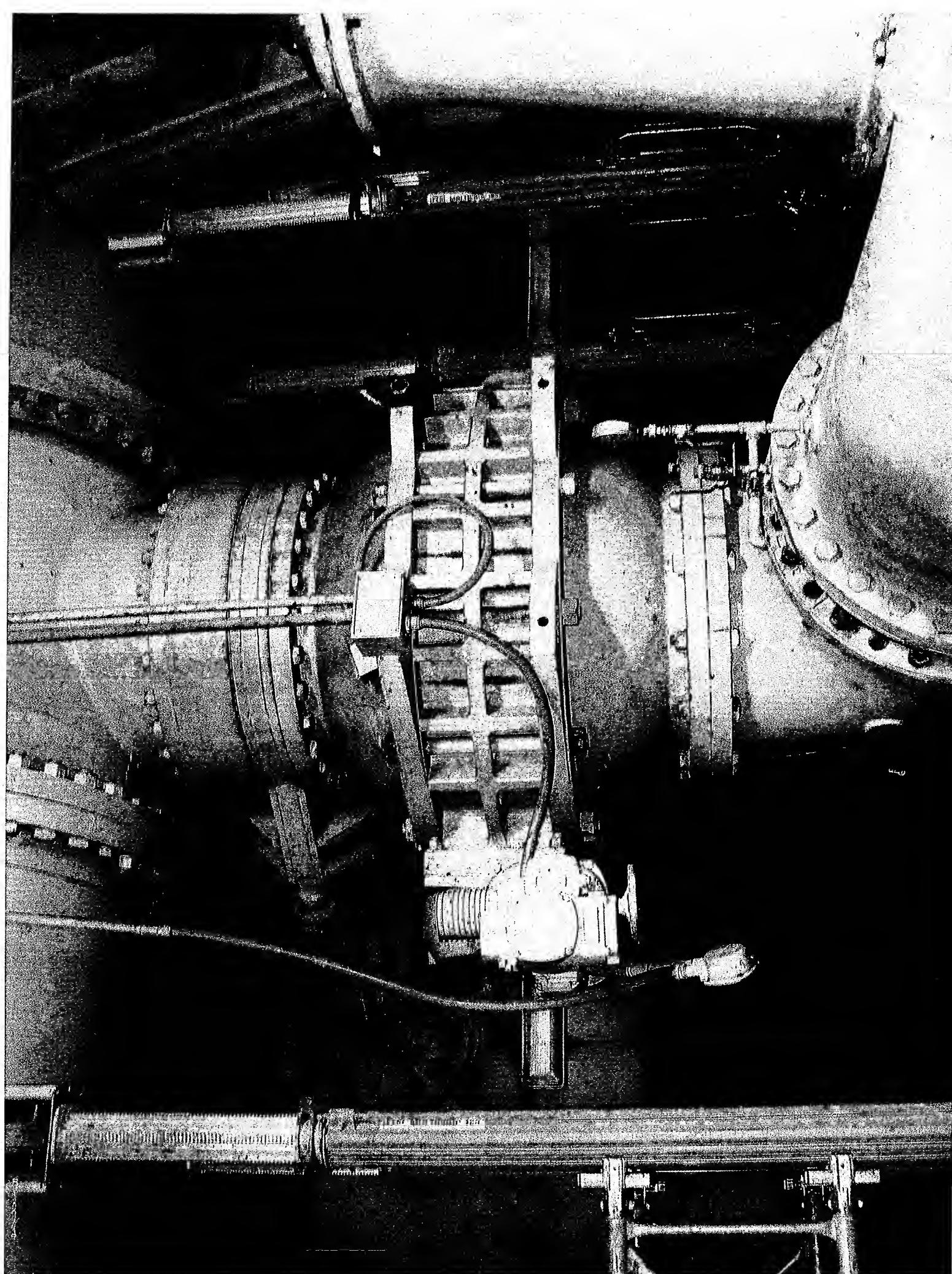


Flooded Dry Pit



Replacing Valve Drive Motors





NEW PUMP



Posted Signs at Parks

